

Grace Episcopal Church
Scripture 202b: Adult New Testament Bible Study
Lesson 5: Jesus According to Gospel of John
Easter 5, Wednesday, May 9, 2012

Tonight:

Prayer

Reading the Gospel as the Beloved Disciple

Overview of John

Compline

Next Week: Paul in Acts; NOAB – Notes from Acts 6:8 – 8:1 9:1- 31 11:29-30 13:13 – 28:31, Fant,
pp. 387 -394

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Notes from Fant

Historical Context

- No name of the author, “disciple whom Jesus loved”
- Strong link to letters of John
- May have been written for/by a community of believers in a “school” of the beloved disciple
- Written 90 – 100 CE (Powell says 90 CE)
 - Rupture of synagogue and Christian church
- Could have been written in Alexandria, Antioch, or Ephesus

Literary Structure and Context

- Introduction (Chapter 1)
 - Jesus is the logos of the cosmos – Jewish = creative power of God
 - The word became flesh and dwelt among us. Jesus is this creative power
- Jesus’ revelation to the world (chapter 2 -12)
 - Healer and in conflict with Jewish leaders
 - Book of signs
 - Miracles and wonders happen, Jesus interpretation is in conflict with Jewish leaders
 - Raises Lazarus from dead is final breach with Jewish leadership
- Jesus’ revelation to the disciples (chapter 13-20)
 - Jesus is crucified to coincide with sacrifice of Passover lambs
 - No bread and wine during last supper but footwashing to illustrate self-giving love and service

- Epilogue (chapter 21)
 - May have been added later by school of John's disciples.

Themes

- Identity of Jesus
 - Jesus as Son of God and Messiah is clearly stated
 - Jesus uses terms for himself as Son of Man and Son of God
 - Talks of his relationship with the Father
 - The Father and I are one (10:30) (14:10,11)
- Realized Eschatology
 - God's activity is active NOW
 - God's judgment is now not in some future event
 - The promise of salvation is already present for those who believe in Jesus
- Symbolic language
 - Living water, bread of life, the good shepherd, light/darkness, above/below
- Miracles as Signs
 - Reveal the identity of Jesus and lead people to faith

In John, Jesus reveals the nature of God through the signs he performed and through his teaches.

Check handouts:

Powell's 8.3 = distinctive characteristics of John

Powell's 8.4 = comparison of John and the Synoptics